

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A steering apparatus for a marine craft having a stern and a propulsion unit mounted on the stern, the system comprising:

a first bracket connectable to the stern of the marine craft; and

a second bracket connectable to the propulsion unit, the second bracket being rotatably connected to the first bracket for relative rotation about an axis of rotation, whereby the propulsion unit can be rotated about the axis of rotation relative to the stern of the craft, the second bracket having a cylindrical bore extending therethrough, a piston being reciprocatingly received within the bore, a cross-section of the piston being substantially solid and circular and slidingly engaging the bore and having a piston rod connected thereto, the piston rod being operatively connected to the propulsion unit.

2. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piston rod is coaxial with the axis of rotation.

3. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second bracket has an actuator portion, the bore extending through the actuator portion, whereby the second bracket comprises a cylinder for the actuator.

4. (Previously Presented) A steering apparatus for a marine craft having a stern and a propulsion unit mounted on the stern, the system comprising:

a first bracket connectable to the stern of the marine craft; and

a second bracket connectable to the propulsion unit, the second bracket being rotatably connected to the first bracket for relative rotation about an axis of rotation, whereby the propulsion unit can be rotated about the axis of rotation relative to the stern of the craft, the second bracket having a cylindrical bore extending therethrough, a piston being reciprocatingly received within the bore, slidingly engaging the bore and having a piston rod connected thereto, the piston rod being operatively connected to the propulsion unit,

wherein the piston rod is coaxial with the axis of rotation,

wherein the second bracket has an actuator portion, the bore extending through the actuator portion, whereby the second bracket comprises a cylinder for the actuator, and

wherein the actuator portion has a cylindrical bushing surface, the first bracket having an extension, said extension having a cylindrical bore rotatably receiving the bushing surface, the bushing surface and the cylindrical bore being coaxial with the axis of rotation.

5. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 4, including a pair of first brackets, the actuator portion having a pair of spaced apart cylindrical bushing surfaces, each of the first brackets having an extension with a cylindrical bore rotatably receiving one of the bushing surfaces.

6. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the bushing surfaces and the cylindrical bores are coaxial with the axis of rotation.

7. (Currently Amended) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 4 ~~6~~, including end fittings sealingly engaging opposite ends of the bore in the second bracket, the end fittings each having a hydraulic connector for connecting a hydraulic conduit to the second bracket.

8. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of the end fittings has an aperture therethrough, the piston rod extending sealingly through the aperture, said at least one end fitting having a swivel member rotatably mounted thereon, one of the hydraulic connectors being mounted on the swivel member, whereby the second bracket can rotate relative to said one hydraulic connector.

9. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said one of the end fittings has a cylindrical outer surface, the swivel member having a cylindrical opening rotatably receiving the cylindrical outer surface.

10. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 9, including an annular hydraulic conduit extending between the cylindrical outer surface and the cylindrical opening.

11. (Original) A steering apparatus for a marine craft having a stern and a propulsion unit mounted on the stern, the system comprising:

a first bracket connectable to the stern of the marine craft; and

a second bracket connectable to the propulsion unit, the second bracket being rotatably connected to the first bracket for relative rotation about an axis of rotation, whereby the propulsion unit can be rotated about the axis of rotation relative to the stern of the craft, the second bracket having a bore extending therethrough, end fittings engaging opposite ends of the bore in the second bracket, the end fittings each having an opening, a cable tube extending through the openings, a cable being reciprocatingly received within the tube, the cable being operatively connected to the propulsion unit for steering the craft.

12. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the bore is sized to reciprocatingly receive a piston so that the cable and cable tube can be replaced by the piston and a piston rod connected thereto for a hydraulic steering system.

13. (Previously Presented) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim-11, wherein the cable is coaxial with the axis of rotation.

14. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second bracket has an actuator portion, the bore extending through the actuator portion.

15. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the actuator portion has a cylindrical bushing surface, the first bracket having an extension, said extension having a cylindrical bore rotatably receiving the bushing surface, the bushing surface and the cylindrical bore being coaxial with the axis of rotation.

16. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 15, including a pair of first brackets, the actuator portion having a pair of spaced apart cylindrical bushing surfaces, each of the first brackets having an extension with a cylindrical bore rotatably receiving one of the bushing surfaces.

17. (Previously Presented) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the bushing surfaces and the cylindrical bores are coaxial with the axis of rotation.

18. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 17, including seals between the end fittings and the bore in the second bracket.

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19. (Original) The steering apparatus as claimed in claim 18, including seals between the openings in the end fittings and the cable tube.